



WEST CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
3702 Loop 322
Abilene, TX 79602

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PIPELINE SAFETY, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

FINAL REPORT

Award # DTPH5615GPPT22

October 13, 2016

The following PHMSA grant activities were implemented during the period September 30, 2015 through September 29, 2016.

1. Project Planning

Target Period: Quarter 1 through Quarter 3

Project Status: Complete

A. Task: Inform and update region's chief elected officials and local leaders of Pipeline Safety grant project benefits for local communities.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff provided project information to the WCTCOG staff. Reviewed the Pipeline Safety Outreach project objectives and discussed roles of elected officials and local leaders

PM: WCTCOG and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff scheduled meetings with local elected and public officials across city and county levels of government in the west central Texas region. Information about the Pipeline Safety program and the services were distributed and made known.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff scheduled events for National Safe Digging month for April and disseminated information and requested local municipalities and counties support in issuing public proclamations in support. Active involvement in the regional DPC's was highly encouraged.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach staff utilized GIS capabilities to develop a comprehensive map of all major underground pipelines in the 19 county region. The map was created using data compiled from the Texas Railroad Commission. The map serves to provide an accurate picture of the underground infrastructure in the west central Texas region. The map will be will serve as a key data reference in future regional hazard mitigation planning and will continue to be maintained and updated. Elected officials and other key pubic officials will have the ability to request data for community, county, and regional planning purposes

- B. TASK: Staff will develop and maintain Damage Prevention Council(s) regional directory to include pipeline operators, city and utility contacts, and emergency response personnel to be distributed to local elected officials.**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff coordinated with Texas 811 staff to develop and maintain the regional DPC's contact directory. The directory was composed of a conglomeration of pipeline operators, contractors, first responders, utility workers, and various levels of local government officials and staff.

- C. Task: WCTCOG will develop and maintain Pipeline safety webpage to include all grant required information and data**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff created a basic information page and is worked with WCTCOG webmaster to create an efficient and effective webpage, regarding pipeline safety.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff collected, developed and maintains pipeline safety information, new resource links and Damage Prevention Council Directory, with the most current data.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff reviewed PHMSA and Texas Railroad Commission websites and outreach staff for new information and available links for resources

- D. Task: Staff will conduct a survey reviewing the regions' emergency plan to ensure inclusion of pipeline safety hazards.**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff met with county judges and commissioners in Haskell, Runnels, Scurry, Stephens, Shackelford and Throckmorton County to evaluate county policies and procedures pertaining to underground pipelines. PSO staff worked with County officials to evaluate existing county ordinances and discuss best practices for management of its pipeline infrastructure and the importance of damage prevention.

PM: WCTCOG staff and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff met with city officials in Abilene, Brownwood, Cisco, De Leon, Early, and Hamlin to evaluate city policies and procedures pertaining to underground pipelines. PSO staff worked with City officials and local utility officials to evaluate existing city ordinances and discuss best practices for management of its pipeline infrastructure and the importance of damage prevention.

PM: WCTCOG Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff attended annual Paradigm Liaison event, Abilene TX.

PM: Regional Services Director and Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff ensured the Homeland Security department and 9-1-1 department staff received on-going information targeted for the emergency management coordinators throughout the region. Active participation in the Damage Prevention councils was encouraged and discussed.

PM: West Central Texas Council of Governments, Homeland Security Program to include pipeline hazards and safety issues in the Homeland Security Advisory Committee information dissemination.

2). Damage Prevention Council Membership

Target Period: Quarter 1 through Quarter 4

Project Status: Complete

- A. Task: WCTCOG will participate in Texas 811 meetings and communicate information to local leadership across WCT region**

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) program staff attended meetings of the Big Country, Concho Valley, Heart of Texas and Red River Damage Prevention Councils. WCTCOG Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff solicited feedback and cooperation for project success.

PM: PSO staff provided feedback from local leadership, across the west central Texas region, on information provided by stakeholders participating in DPC meetings. Feedback was solicited from officials during one on one meetings about pipeline damage prevention and while providing pipeline safety technical assistance services.

B. Task: Staff will volunteer for DPC community awareness projects

PM: The WCTCOG and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff participated in planning the Big Country Safety Day and Mock Line Strike Demonstration. The event provides a hands on “live” demonstration on the proper steps of damage prevention and the devastating consequences if they are ignored. The event includes active participation from pipeline operators, contractors, line locators, heavy equipment companies, first responders and Texas 811. The event draws high numbers and attracts a mix of first responders (VFD, Police Departments, etc.), elected officials, city staff and employees, utility companies, contractors and the general public across west central Texas. PSO staff was active in planning by hosting planning meetings, providing an event venue, securing sponsorships, coordinating the event script and actively marketing the event across the region. The Event was held on September 30, 2016 at the WCTCOG facilities.

C. Task: Staff will encourage attendance at DPC and all public meetings by local elected and non-elected officials and emergency responders.

PM: WCTCOG and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff scheduled meetings with local elected and public officials across city and county levels of government in the west central Texas region. Information pertaining to damage prevention and safety for underground pipelines was distributed and technical assistance was also provided if requested. Active involvement in the regional DPC’s was highly encouraged.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff presented a brief presentation of its pipeline safety program at the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) sub-regional meeting. The annual meeting serves as an event for Cities, Counties and other Taxing entities across west central Texas and its 19 counties to network and receive an update on services and programs offered to them at the WCTCOG. The WCTCOG PSO staff gave an overview of the pipeline safety program, the data that it can offer to public and elected officials, the roles local government plays in damage prevention, encouraged participation in the regional Damage Prevention Councils and invited attendees to upcoming damage prevention outreach events. Entities represented include following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Haskell, Jones, Knox, Fisher, Eastland, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, and Throckmorton Counties.

PM: Encouraged and invited local officials to attend respective regional meetings. PSO provided feedback of the chief elected officials’ comments and responses to the information already provided; Requested assistance in identifying best public education resources and identifying local public contact opportunities for 2016 PSO project year. PSO staff actively participated in planning for coordinated public awareness events. Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff was elected to the board, as the Scribe/Secretary, of the Big Country Damage Prevention Council.

PM: Regional Services Director and Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff ensured the Homeland Security department and 9-1-1 department staff receive on-going information targeted for the emergency management coordinators throughout the region. Active participation in the Damage Prevention councils was encouraged and discussed.

PM: West Central Texas Council of Governments, Homeland Security Program to include pipeline hazards and safety issues in the Homeland Security Advisory Committee information dissemination.

3). Goal: Public Events

Target Period: End Quarter 4

Project Status: Complete

- A. Task: Participate in public events (Chamber events, health/safety fairs) to promote pipeline safety awareness and engage in marketing activities targeting- construction, agriculture, and students. WCTCOG will distribute to youth and adults and aid pipeline industry partners in gathering survey information.**

PM: WCTCOG staff and Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff participated in county wide health fairs in Knox County (Benjamin)-150 participants, Taylor County (Abilene-Texas State Technical College) -1500 participants and in Haskell County (Haskell)-250 participants. The WCTCOG staff and PSO participated by distributing information, public outreach items and provided technical assistance through questions and answers and best management practice ideas regarding pipeline safety and the 811 one-call system to thousands of participants. In the process the WCTCOG staff began to establish networks and identify specific area needs for future planning and outreach events.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) program staff hosted a booth at the Texas Farm-Ranch-Wildlife expo held at the Taylor County expo center, Abilene Texas. The event attracts over an estimated 4,000 people in a 100-mile radius. WCTCOG and PSO staff participated by distributing information, public outreach items, and providing technical assistance through notification and education of pipeline safety programs available within the 19-county region by educating the rural participants on issues specific to those in attendance.

PM: WCTCOG staff and PSO staff attended the annual Paradigm meeting held at the City of Abilene Civic Center. In attendance were local DPC meeting operators, local and emergency officials, utility providers, local elected officials, DPS officers, local first responders and emergency management personnel. Many in attendance were engaged in an exchange of information regarding systems and capabilities to plan accordingly in the event of a line strike or other emergencies. The event also provided a platform to encourage participation in regional Damage Prevention Councils.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) program staff participated in the 2016 Indoor/Outdoor Expo and Cajun Fest, hosted by the Big Country Homebuilders Association, held at the Abilene civic center. The expo attracted visitors from all across west central Texas during the two-day event. PSO program staff participated by distributing information, outreach items, and providing technical assistance through notification and education of pipeline safety practices and the one-call notification system. PSO staff also educated attendees on the responsibilities homeowners have to utilize the proper steps of damage prevention.

PM: The WCTCOG and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff participated in planning the Big Country Safety Day and Mock Line Strike Demonstration. The event provides a hands on "live" demonstration on the proper steps of damage prevention and the devastating consequences if they are ignored. The event includes active participation from pipeline operators, contractors, line locators, heavy equipment companies, first responders and Texas 811. The event draws high numbers and attracts a mix of first responders (VFD, Police Departments, etc.), elected officials, city staff and employees, utility companies, contractors and the general public across west central Texas. PSO staff was active in planning by hosting planning meetings, providing an event venue, securing sponsorships, coordinating the event script and actively marketing the event across the region. The Event was held on September 30, 2016 at the WCTCOG facilities.

4). Goal: Promote Pipeline Safety in the Region

Target Period: Quarter 2, Quarter 3, Quarter 4

Project Status: Completed

A. Task: Staff will distribute information (flyers, agendas of meetings, education) to community nonprofit organizations and agriculture organizations, provide outreach and education materials reaching the public that may lack social media access

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff gave a presentation at Stamford Rotary Luncheon, the presentation educated attendees on the steps of damage prevention, and promoted pipeline safety and general pipeline awareness. PSO staff distributed educational outreach materials to all in attendance (approximately 15 in attendance).

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff provided 811 and other damage prevention materials to local Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate for dissemination to volunteers at their events.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff coordinated with local county ag extension agents to provide presentations at regional 4-H meetings in Knox, Nolan, and Haskell County. PSO staff educated local youth on damage prevention and pipeline safety practices.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff coordinated with a local advertising company to design and erect a billboard promoting pipeline damage prevention and utilizing the one-call notification system. The billboard is located on a regional arterial corridor in north Taylor County. Traffic is estimated over 10,000 vehicles a day.

PM: Throughout the months of June, July and August Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff collaborated with newspapers in Jones, Throckmorton, and Taylor County to publish advertisements promoting pipeline damage prevention and utilizing the one-call notification system.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff provided a presentation to members of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Farm and Ranch Committee on the steps of damage prevention and pipeline safety. The presentation provided an opportunity for PSO staff to answer any questions and discuss ongoing challenges or issues that are unique to landowners and those who live in rural areas.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff presented a brief presentation of its pipeline safety program at the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) sub-regional meeting. The annual meeting serves as an event for Cities, Counties and other Taxing entities across west central Texas and its 19 counties to network and receive an update on services and programs offered to them at the WCTCOG. The WCTCOG PSO staff gave an overview of the pipeline safety program, the data that it can offer to public and elected officials, the roles local government plays in damage prevention, encouraged participation in the regional Damage Prevention Councils and invited attendees to upcoming damage prevention outreach events. Entities represented include following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Haskell, Jones, Knox, Fisher, Eastland, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, and Throckmorton Counties.

B. Task: Staff will distribute information to business organizations including but not limited to the construction industry and small business; to colleges and other tech schools

PM: WCTCOG Staff and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff participated in the Abilene Board of Realtors program luncheon, Abilene Texas -250+ in attendance, including insurance providers, realtors, pest control, banking professionals and others. Pipeline Safety Outreach program staff gave a presentation on pipeline damage prevention and utilizing the one call system. The

presentation provided an opportunity for PSO staff to answer any questions and discuss ongoing problems that local realtors or developers may have.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff provided 811 and other damage prevention materials to local 4 mobile home retailers and associated contractors.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff provided 811 and other damage prevention materials to WCTCOG member communities which include local city managers and county judges for dissemination at city hall buildings/county facilities'. As well as to school districts and water supply corporations.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff gave a presentation at Wylie Middle School and Cooper High School in Abilene Texas. The presentation educated students on the steps of damage prevention, and promoted pipeline safety and general pipeline awareness. PSO staff distributed educational outreach materials to students and school staff.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff gave a presentation to engineering students at Texas State Technical College in Abilene, Texas. PSO staff educated students on safe excavation practices, the one-call notification system and general pipeline awareness and safety. Educational outreach materials were distributed.

PM: Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff attended the BCDPC Damage Prevention luncheon targeted at mobile home installers and other types of contractors in west central Texas. The event was held in Abilene, Texas.

PM: WCTCOG and Pipeline Safety Outreach (PSO) staff provided underground pipeline technical assistance to consultants conducting the the Dyess Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study. The Airbase is located in Abilene, Texas. WCTCOG and PSO were part of meetings conducted during the initial planning phases of the study.

Outreach & Education

October 8, 2015 – Heart of Texas DPC Meeting, Brownwood Texas
October 10, 2015 – Knox County Health & Safety Fair, Benjamin, Texas
October 14, 2015 – Big Country DPC Meeting, Abilene Texas
October 21, 2015 – Haskell County Health & Safety Fair, Haskell, Texas
October 28, 2015 – Texas Midwest Community Network Annual Conference, Abilene, Texas

November 4, 2015 -WCTCOG Annual Meeting, Abilene Texas
November 9, 2015 -Mock Line Strike Event Demonstration, South Plains DPC, Lubbock Texas
November 17, 2015- City of Sweetwater, Technical assistance meeting, Sweetwater, Texas
November 18, 2015 – Big Country GIS Day, Abilene Texas

December 14, 2015 – Big Country DPC Meeting, Abilene Texas

January 8, 2016 – Knox County Rural Leadership Presentation, Benjamin Texas
January 13, 2016 – TSTC Taylor County Health & Wellness Expo, Abilene Texas
January 20, 2016 – Heart of Texas DPC Meeting, Brownwood, Texas
January 26, 2016 – Concho Valley DPC, San Angelo, Texas

February 1, 2016 – Abilene Board of Realtors Pipeline Outreach presentation, Abilene Texas
February 7, 2016 – Haskell County 4-H Pipeline Safety presentation, Haskell, Texas
February 16, 2016 – Red River DPC, Wichita Falls Texas
February 18, 2016 – Big Country DPC, Abilene, Texas
February 23 & 24, 2016 – Texas Farm & Ranch Expo, Abilene Texas
February 26, 2016 – Paradigm Meeting, Abilene Texas
February 26, 2016- Big Country DPC –Safety Day Planning Meeting

March 11, 2016 – Career Day, Wylie Middle School presentation, Abilene Texas
March 29, 2016 – Abilene MPO, Technical Advisory Committee, Abilene Texas
March 30, 2016 - Big Country DPC meeting, Abilene Texas
March 30, 2016 - Texas State Technical College Presentation, Abilene Texas

April 8, 2016 - Abilene Chamber of Commerce Farm and Ranch Committee Presentation, Abilene Texas
April 9&10, 2016 - Indoor Outdoor Expo & Cajun Fest, Abilene Texas
April 11, 2016 - City of Sweetwater 4-H Pipeline Presentation, Sweetwater Texas
April 19, 2016 - Big Country DPC, Abilene Texas
April 27, 2016 - Big Country DPC Damage Prevention Luncheon, Abilene Texas

May 4, 2016 - Heart of Texas DPC, Brownwood Texas

June 15, 2016 - Dyess AFB Joint Land Use Study planning meeting, Abilene Texas
June 16, 2016 - Big Country DPC, Abilene Texas

July 11, 2016- City of DeLeon technical Assistance, DeLeon, Texas

July 22, 2016 - Big Country DPC, Abilene Texas

August 11, 2016 – Provided technical assistance for elected officials in Throckmorton County, Throckmorton Texas

August 16, 2016 - Provided technical assistance for elected and local city officials, City of Throckmorton, Throckmorton Texas

August 23, 2016 - Provided technical assistance for County Judge and Commissioners in Stephens County, Breckenridge Texas

August 23, 2016 – Provided technical assistance and education of Pipeline program for elected officials of Shackelford County, Albany Texas

September 19, 2016 - Big Country DPC, Abilene Texas

September 28, 2016 - WCTCOG Sub-Regional Meeting Presentation, Abilene Texas

Although our grant ended on September 29, 2016, WCTCOG hosted an event on September 30, 2016 which was a huge success with multiple partners- Big Country DPC Mock Line Strike and Safety Day presentation